

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWING FIGURES

Figures 1-3 are amended by designating a legend "Prior Art". Replacement Sheets of Drawing Figures 1-3 are filed herewith reflecting these amendments

REMARKS

The Office Action states that Figures 1-3 should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art". Replacement Sheets of Drawing Figures 1-3 are filed herewith with the legend "Prior Art".

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaffa (U.S. Patent No. 5,503,067) in view of Hoffman, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 6,142,070). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Jaffa discloses a squeegee for printing apparatus that includes an elongated member having an ink engaging face and a plurality of spaced apart fins arranged across the face. The fins are generally parallel to one another and each end of the member is bent toward the ink engaging face so as to inhibit the flow of ink to the sides of a screen.

Hoffman teaches a squeegee assembly for use in a printing operation having a screen surface. The squeegee assembly includes a squeegee having a first and second surface and a pair of opposite ends, an attachment for holding the squeegee at a suitable operating angle relative to the screen surface and at least one ink deflector. The at least one ink deflector is mounted in a pivotable configuration and is detachably positioned at an operating angle relative to and in contact with the screen surface along at least one end of the squeegee during the printing operation. The operating angle of the ink deflector is independent of the operating angle of the squeegee. The ink deflector is connected to the attachment for holding the squeegee. The ink deflector has a first surface directing ink toward a center of the first squeegee surface.

It is respectfully submitted that that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest coating agent leakage prohibiting means provided to both ends of the squeegee and having a coating agent control guide including a panel portion with bottom edge extending perpendicularly from the squeegee and parallel to the sliding direction and the panel portion extending from the bottom edge and inclined inwardly relative to a normal line to the surface of the screen towards the center of a printing sphere as defined by a width of the squeegee. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the

applied art.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

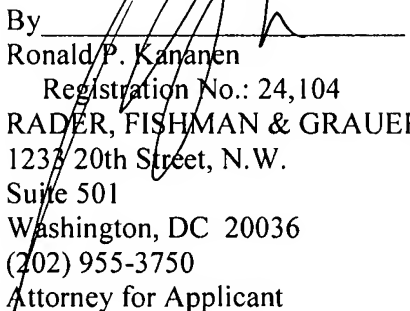
It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Amendment Transmittal
Replacement Sheets of Drawing Figures 1-3 with Prior Art legend